

## AUSSIES PLANNING TO CASH IN ON WORKING FROM HOME PURCHASES, BUT HALF ADMIT TAX KNOWLEDGE IS MINIMAL

**Monday 7 June:** With working from home continuing into 2021, new research\* from **Officeworks**, has revealed two-thirds of Australians (67 per-cent) will be claiming additional items when lodging their tax returns this end of financial year. However, concerns are present with 56 per-cent of respondents admitting their knowledge of EOFY and tax returns is minimal and that they might not be making the most of the benefits that are available to them.

The research commissioned by Officeworks, surveyed over 1,400 Australians on their intentions and approach to tax time, and sentiment on changed working habits, in our first full year of COVID conditions. The survey found that 74 per-cent of those working from home over the past year have made purchases for their at-home office. **Officeworks Chief Operating Officer, Michael Howard** encourages people to take a closer look at what items might in fact be tax deductible.

"The findings have revealed a large number of Australians are entitled to additional benefits this tax time as part of setting up their homes to work remotely. Many of the purchases made in early 2020 were temporary solutions, but with working from home and flexible working arrangements now being implemented by many businesses, we have seen customers set up more permanent workstations in their homes.

"We have seen increased sales in technology and home office products such as home printers, monitors, computer accessories, cables and sit-stand desks, products that help our customers work remotely which could be tax deductible," said Mr Howard.

### **Working from home is here to stay**

According to the findings, 73 per-cent of Australian workers would like to work from home in some capacity over the next 12 months. This increases to 87 per-cent amongst those workers who have already been working from home since March 2020, further demonstrating how Australians have adapted to flexible working arrangements.

There has also been significant investment from both employees and employers when it comes to setting up their home office, with the average respondent spending \$130 on home office products in the past 12 months - an increase on the 2020\*\* average of \$103. Over half (56 per-cent) of respondents spent over \$150, and close to three in five (57 per-cent) their employers contributed to Australians' WFH setup, either by providing or loaning equipment (44 per-cent) or contributing financially (27 per-cent). Respondents reported that employers who contributed financially spent nearly \$150 on helping their employees get set-up to work from home.

### **Ergonomics making ground but there is still a way to go**

Three out of 10 survey respondents (28 per-cent) said they don't think they have an ergonomically safe home office setup. Chairs (60 per-cent), keyboards (43 per-cent), mice (40 per-cent) and desks (39 per-cent), were listed as the most common purchases this financial year to create optimal ergonomic conditions, all of which are tax deductible.

Additional Australian [Research](#) has also shown that sitting in an incorrect or awkward posture can lead to musculoskeletal disorders (MSD), particularly with the neck and lower back.

“With more individuals continuing to work from home, we have seen an uplift in sit-stand desks and ergonomic seating as customers make sure they have a home workspace that accommodates them comfortably,” said Mr Howard.

– ENDS –

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For imagery, please [click here](#).

*\*The research was commissioned by Alt/Shift on behalf of Officeworks and conducted by Lonergan Research in accordance with the ISO 20252 standard. Lonergan Research surveyed 1476 Australians aged 18+, including a Small business leader boost. Surveys were distributed throughout Australia including both capital city and non-capital city areas. The survey was conducted online amongst members of a permission-based panel, between 14th May and 23rd May, 2021. After interviewing, data was weighted to the latest population estimates sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.*

*\*\*An online survey of 1,000 Australians during 22-30 April 2020, undertaken by Empirica Research. All respondents were working from home since social distancing measures were put in place due to COVID-19. They did not work from home before social distancing measures.*

**ABOUT OFFICEWORKS**

Established 26 years ago in Richmond, Victoria, Officeworks is committed to making bigger things happen for its customers, team, the community and stakeholders. It operates 167 stores across Australia, a website that is home to more than 40,000 products, a national call centre, and a business team that helps micro, small and medium-sized businesses start, run and grow.

Officeworks offers customers a wide range of office supplies, technology, furniture, art supplies, education resources and helpful services like print & copy and on-site tech support through Geeks2U – delivering an experience that is easy and engaging, no matter how customers choose to shop.

Officeworks is focused on the safety, wellbeing and career progression of the 8,000 team members it employs. It's also dedicated to operating in a sustainable manner, including building and maintaining meaningful connections with the communities in which it operates, fundraising for its national partners and local community groups, continuing to reduce its impact on the environment and source responsibly.